

Please add new Claims 28-59.

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--28. A method of modifying a polymeric material comprising the steps of (1) an activation-treatment and (2) a hydrophilic polymer-treatment.

29. The method of modifying a polymeric material according to claim 28 further comprising the step (3) of monomer grafting.

30. The method of modifying a polymeric material according to claim 28, further comprising the step of a solvent-treatment prior to step (1).

31. The method of modifying a polymeric material according to claim 30, further comprising the step (3) of monomer grafting.

32. The method according to claim 28, wherein said polymeric material is a homopolymer or copolymer of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of: olefins, vinyl compounds except olefins, vinylidene compounds and other compounds having carbon-carbon double bonds; polyesters, polyamides, polyimides, polyurethanes, polybenzoates, poly(benzoxazole)s, poly(benzthiazole)s, poly-(*p*-phenylene benzbisoxazole)s, poly-(*p*-phenylene benzbis-thiazole)s, poly(alkyl-*p*-hydroxybenzoate)s, poly(benzimidazole)s, carbon fiber materials, polyphenols, cellulose acetate, regenerated cellulose, vinylon, polychlel, casein, wool, silk and hemp (or ramie, jute).

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38. The method according to claim 36, wherein said monomer is at least one kind of monomer or a mixture of monomers selected from the following monomers; acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, vinyl acetate, 2-butene acid, ethylene sulfonic acid, hydroxyalkyl acrylate, hydroxyalkyl methacrylate, acryl amide, vinyl pyridine, vinyl pyrrolidone, vinyl carbazole, maleic anhydride and pyromellitic dianhydride.

39. The method according to claim 37, wherein said monomer is at least one kind of monomer or a mixture of monomers selected from the following monomers; acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, vinyl acetate, 2-butene acid, ethylene sulfonic acid, hydroxyalkyl acrylate, hydroxyalkyl methacrylate, acryl amide, vinyl pyridine, vinyl pyrrolidone, vinyl carbazole, maleic anhydride and pyromellitic dianhydride.

40. The method according to claim 28, wherein the step of a hydrophilic polymer-treatment is carried out in the presence of catalysts or initiators.

41. The method according to claim 29, wherein the step of monomer grafting is carried out in the presence of catalysts or initiators.

42. The method according to claim 29, wherein said step of monomer grafting is carried out by any one of or both of the following two methods: (1) heating in the presence of catalysts or initiators and (2) UV irradiation in the presence or absence of catalysts, initiators or photo-sensitizers.

43. The method according to claim 31, wherein said step of monomer grafting is carried out by any one of or both of the following two methods: (1) heating in the presence of catalysts or initiators and (2) UV irradiation in the presence or absence of catalysts, initiators or photo-sensitizers.

44. The method according to claim 40, wherein said initiators are at least one compound selected from the following compounds: peroxides, cerium ammonium nitrate (IV) and persulfates.

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45. The method according to claim 41, wherein said initiators are at least one compound selected from the following compounds: peroxides, cerium ammonium nitrate (IV) and persulfates.

46. An improved polymeric material obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

47. Battery separators containing improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

48. Wiping/cleansing materials containing improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

49. Filter mediums containing improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

50. Water absorption materials containing improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

51. Water retention materials containing improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

52. Materials for microorganism culture media containing improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

53. Composite materials containing improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

paper, pens erasers etc
54. Members of writing materials containing improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

55. Polymeric materials improved in adhesion property obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

56. Medical/sanitary/cosmetic supplies containing improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

57. Synthetic papers made of improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

58. Brackets for straightening of irregular teeth containing improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.

59. Textile products for clothing or inner battings of beds/bed clothing containing improved polymeric materials obtained by the improvement method according to claim 1.